



*“Together, we saved this view.
Forever.”*

President’s Message



Photo by Charlie Neuman for the San Diego Union Tribune

Our community made history — again — on February 22, with the dedication of a 3.4-acre plot of paradise that will never, ever, be “paved ... and put up a parking lot.”

Backed by a soaring sunset, Mayor Jewel Edson, Nature Collective Executive Director Doug Gibson, and Harbaugh Foundation Director manager Joe Balla clipped a green ribbon to officially open the trails at our City’s northern gateway. New paths twine among 8,000 native plants installed by community volunteers in November thru January. They link our Coastal Rail Trail with the San Elijo Lagoon trail system via a new pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks.

The decades-long battle to preserve this view is now a celebration of victory for many, many long-time Society members, environmental protectors and Solana Beach activists. Some of us can remember that the view from what’s now the donor monument at Harbaugh Seaside Trails used to look like this.

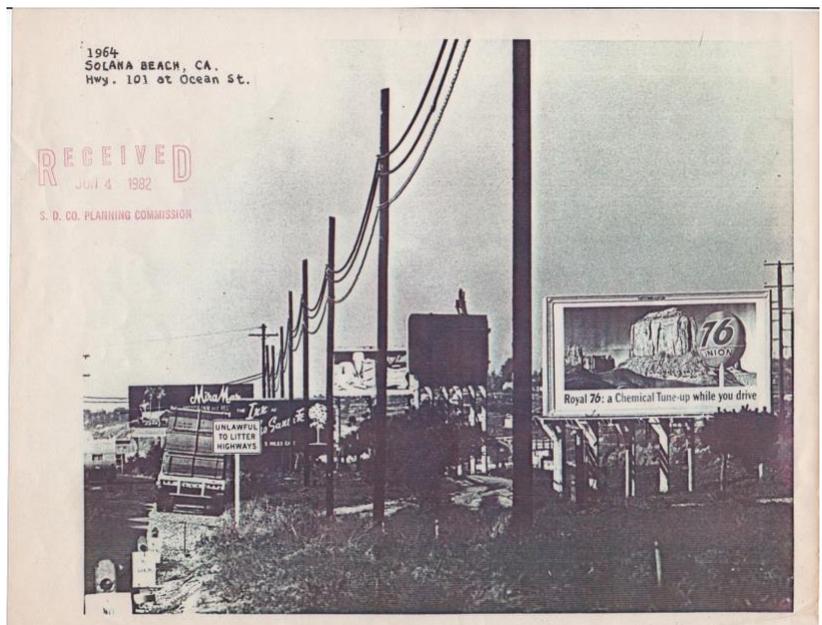
Mr. Gibson (our April General Meeting speaker) and his team made sure that all of the eco-warriors involved in saving this view were well acknowledged during the dedication. “The local community, they are the real heroes,” he told the San Diego Union Tribune.

In just a few days, we will read news of the votes by our neighbors to the south to determine the future of the bluff-side property above Dog Beach that is in Del Mar’s jurisdiction.

And I can’t help singing:

*“Don’t it always seem to go,
That you don’t know what you’ve got,
’til it’s gone.”*

Michele Stribling



Solana Beach Theatre Lives on, in its Bones

By Lila Zubik, Marketing/IT Coordinator, ID Studios, for Brixton Capital

With its space-ship-shape and rich history, the Brixton Headquarters building is iconic in San Diego's coastal north county. On a mission to bring this beauty back to life, Brixton Capital retained ID Studios to consult on its design transformation, both inside and out. Researching the building's history, we quickly discovered that its story is as interesting as its unique shape.



The building currently located at 120 South Sierra Avenue, started as the Solana Theater in the 1930s with its main entry, and address, on South Acacia Ave. It was built by Smith Construction which was run by [Dorthea Smith and her husband Milton Smith](#) who built several landmarks in Solana Beach.

The earliest reference to the theater we found was in [Seabiscuit, An American Legend](#) by Laura Hillenbrand. In the book, she recalls a [famous 1938 horse race, Seabiscuit vs Ligaroti](#), which was reportedly replayed at the theater after being run on the nearby Del Mar Racetrack.

The theater stayed in business for decades and is often recalled in the Facebook Group, "[You Might Be From Solana Beach If...](#)"

Long-time locals remember long lines that would wind along South Sierra and into the Plaza on "kids mornings," when the theatre would play 25 cartoons and a short feature — and no parents were allowed. "A theatre full of popcorn eating (and popcorn

throwing) kids and no parents hollering 'no.' It was utter joy," recalls Society programs chair, Carol Childs.

In the late 1970s, business at the theater waned after Flower Hill Mall Theater opened two miles away. When the Solana Beach Theater closed, a family took advantage of a then-current trend and opened "[Organ Power Pizza Parlor](#)." They [purchased and moved a historic organ built by famed organ builder Robert Morton](#) onto the theater's stage.

The building started its next life when it was converted to office space. In the '80s, after a [leveraged buyout of The Chart House](#), executives chose the historic theater for their new headquarters. They hired [Architect Joe Lancor](#), who added the curved roof and nautilus shell shape now prominently featured as the entrance.

After Chart House [moved its headquarters to Chicago in 1997](#), the building continued its corporate identity, housing various companies. Brixton purchased the property in 2016 with the intent to modernize it for its Corporate Headquarters. Brixton Chief Executive Officer Travis King said Brixton wanted its offices to reflect the "hardworking, get it done East Coast/New York mentality combined with the laid-back vibe of San Diego."

ID Studios brought those ideas together with an open-concept design, maximizing the coastal views of Fletcher Cove bringing their "vibe" to the interior. We knew that the almost windowless wall that previously housed the large movie screen hid a stunning view of Fletcher Cove. The design team relocated restrooms and other core services, then pierced the wall with a line of windows to create access to fresh air for occupants, along with the coastal views.

The renovation also features a new stairway in the circular theme of the nautilus-shaped entrance. With office space on the two upper floors, the basement was converted into a fitness area with a jiu-jitsu studio, showers, and surfboard storage. Separate access to the fitness studios from Fletcher Cove Park and the beach minimizes sand being tracked into the office.

ID Studios is proud to have been a partner in bringing this historic building to its current life.





Pam Dalton, Susan Richman

Like crafting? Join the Gang Creating Treasures for our Holiday

Boutique Members made sea-creature ornaments and greeting cards in February. New Crafters welcomed on March 18, 1 p.m. at Donna Golich's home.

Contact Pam Dalton for details:
858-755-8574



Donna Golich, Lynn Freeland

SeaWeeders settle more boulders at El Viento, prep for Phase II Landscaping



Katie Pelisek and Gary Martin directed placement of a truckload of large boulders at El Viento pocket park to help manage erosion and shore- up slopes for more landscaping with aloes, agaves and other water-wise plants.



Bonsai Basics

All are invited to learn basic bonsai pruning from oriental tree artist Joe Elmer

March 4, 6:30 p.m.

New place!

La Colonia Community Center, 715 Valley Ave.

Bring gloves and clippers. Plants will be



We SeaWeeders shared our favorite garden tools and tales at our February meeting. Thanks Club photog, Tina Zucker!

March 6 General Meeting

Ancient Mariners, Native Astronomers — Prehistoric Cultures of Solana Beach

The Kumeyaay people of San Diego County are often portrayed as relying on acorns, deer, and rabbits as their primary food sources. These foods were important, but the Kumeyaay were also masters of the bays and oceans —they were maritime peoples thousands of years before arrival of the Spaniards.

Learn more about the Kumeyaay and the pre-history of our area on Friday, March 6, starting at 5 p.m., when historian, writer, educator and wine maker Richard L. Carrico peels back more than 5,000 years of history to provide an image of the Kumeyaay that has been largely ignored. His discussion will focus on the techniques used by the Kumeyaay to procure a large variety of fish, shellfish and other maritime food sources. Topics will include the types of boats and canoes used by the Kumeyaay, the importance of the oceans and bays in Kumeyaay oral tradition, and the locales they exploited — including the deep ocean, the offshore islands, and the Solana Beach area. Mr. Carrico will also place Kumeyaay fishing and maritime activities within the context of their overall cosmology, including the many native maritime place names and constellations that help guide the Kumeyaay.

Mr. Carrico is a lecturer in the Department of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University and has made significant contributions to our understanding of the local indigenous cultures and early Spanish colonization. He has conducted or supervised more than 200 archaeological excavations and has received several awards for academic excellence, including the Norman Neurburg Award for outstanding research presented by the California Missions Foundation in 2019.

Mr. Carrico spent his formative years in San Diego, served in the U.S. Army and attended local universities. He has an M.A. from the University of San Diego in History and B. A. degrees from San Diego State University in both History and Anthropology. After our meeting, he will be available to sign copies of his award winning, book *Strangers in a Stolen Land*, a history of the Indians of San Diego County, his new book on the *History of Wine and Wine Making in San Diego County*, and his *History of Ramona California*.



Historian Richard Carrico

2020 General Meetings* and Events

March 6	General Meeting featuring archeologist and historian Richard Carrico of the Department of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University, who will discuss the prehistory of Solana Beach.
April 10	General Meeting, featuring updates on the San Elijo Lagoon restoration from the Nature Collective
May 8	General Meeting, featuring City Manager Greg Wade on the State of the City of Solana Beach
June 5	New Board members installed

Visit our Heritage Museum in La Colonia Park, open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 1-4 p.m.

* ***General Meetings are held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center, 133 Pacific Ave.***

Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society is a non-profit charitable corporation 501 (c)(3)
solanabeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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- Vice President Sandy Mills
- Treasurer..... Lenore Dale
- Recording Secretary Kathleen Drummond
- Corresponding Secretary.. Cindi Clemons

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- Crafts Phyllis Schwartzlose, Pam Dalton
- Education..... Pat Coad
- Emeritus President Virginia Garland
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- Membership..... Betsy Walcott
- Museum Curator..... Lisa Montes
- Newsletter..... Kathleen Drummond
- Nominations..... JoJo Dodson Bogard
- Parliamentarian. Carol Childs
- Programs Carol Childs
- Scrapbooks Nancy Gottfredson
- SeaWeeders..... Kathleen Drummond
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